Atty. Dkt. No. 026032-4833

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Henry Wurm

Title: VEHICLE COMPONENT AND METHOD OF TREATING A COVER MATERIAL FOR USE WITH A VEHICLE COMPONENT

Appl. No.: 10/517,129~

Filing Date: 12/06/2004

Examiner:

Art Unit:

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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Carolyn Simpson (Printed Name)

Carolyn Simpson (Signature)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

An English abstract for DE 101 28 662 states: "For the finishing of covers (11) of seats (10), and especially for use in vehicles, they are fitted to the seats to be carried automatically on spaced carriers (30) by a conveyor (14) through a tunnel, with at least one finishing chamber (16). Within each chamber, each seat is wholly treated at least with steam so that the whole seat cover is smoothed. Hot recirculating air can be added to the steam environment in the chambers. The seats and covers are dried within the same finishing chambers."

An English abstract for JP 2000-03341 states: "PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for optimally removing creases out of a trim cover for sheet, and also to provide a device of simple structure therefor. SOLUTION: This method is for removing creases out of a trim cover 2 for sheet, sewn into a bag composed of a leather section 3 and non-leather section 4, wherein a pair of hanger members 12s and 12m, at least one of which can slide along the base member 16, are in the bag in the trim cover 2 and expanded outward by sliding at least one of them, to give a given tension to the trim cover 2, and, at the same time, hot air is blown into the trim cover 2, to remove creases, mainly formed in the leather section 3, out of the trim cover 2."

An English abstract for DE 197 38 355 states: "The chamber has devices for a preset influencing of the flow behavior of the treatment medium, i.e. hot air flow (2). The devices can take the form of nozzles in the central wall section for additional insertion of hot air into the flow duct. They can also be an arrangement of walls (1) of the middle wall section so that they run towards each other starting from the top. The distance and angle between the walls is adjustable."

An English abstract for JP 11042400 states: "PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To finish clothing beautifully without creases by blowing the steam of high humidity for finishing the drying of clothing due to a tunnel finisher. SOLUTION: The tunnel finisher is partitioned into a steam chamber 2 and a hot air chamber 3, supplied steam is sent through a 1st solenoid valve 11 to a heater 12, the wet steam, which drops a temperature there and increase humidity, is sent to a steam separator 13 and blown out of a steam blowing pipe 16 through a pressure reduction valve 14 and a 2nd solenoid valve 15, its outer periphery is surrounded with a resistor 20, bedewing is generated in the resistor by the blown steam, afterwards, steam wet with steam is prepared and that wet steam is blown over the clothing passing inside the steam chamber 2 so that the clothing can be finished beautifully by removing creases with the steam of high humidity."

An English abstract for EP 0 573 726 states: "The tunnel finisher (20) has an L-shaped run-through tunnel (21) for drying laundry articles and making them crease-free. A steam zone (23) with steam nozzles (24) is essentially arranged in one leg (21') of the run-through tunnel, and a drying zone designated by (25) is located essentially in the other leg (21") of the run-through tunnel. A laundry conveyor (26, 27) is subdivided into two part conveyors which are arranged at right angles to one another. The first part conveyor (26) is a rotating band conveyor or chain conveyor and a second part conveyor (27) is a worm conveyor. Arranged on the first part conveyor (26) are studs (30) extending transversely to the conveying direction (34) and on the second part conveyor (27) is arranged a helical bead (31) extending essentially over the entire length of the second part conveyor (27), in each case as a take-up member for the laundry articles (22) suspended on hangers. The large-area sides (32, 33) of the laundry articles stretched by the hangers are guided parallel to the conveying direction through the steam zone (23) and transversely to the conveying direction through the drying zone. As a result, along with compact dimensions of the tunnel finisher with correspondingly low heat-radiation losses, an unimpeded spraying with steam uniformly on all sides of the articles of clothing to be treated is obtained. A raised treatment quality is achieved with the tunnel finisher according to the invention."

An English abstract for DE 36 27 940 states: "For the efficient final processing of ready-made garments in production and for freshening intermediately-stored ready-made

garments by restoring the smooth material surface for a sales-promoting presentation, use is made of finishing appliances. So-called tunnel finishers allow a fully automatic work flow of the garments to be processed in respect of a smoothing operation. They consist of a steaming chamber (DK) with a downstream drying chamber (TK), and of a transport system (TS) which feeds the garments (KS) delivered at a delivery station (AS1) to the entrance of the steaming chamber (DK) and which feeds the smoothed garments at the exit of the drying chamber (TK) to a receiving station (AS2). In order to improve the finish result substantially here in respect of severely crumpled garments, especially crumpled garments consisting of natural fibre materials, it is proposed to arrange a dampening chamber (BK) upstream of the steaming chamber (DK)."

An English abstract for JP 59-32492 states: "The device has a case contg. a vertical shaft. Three chambers for accommodating wrinkled sheets are radially mounted on the vertical shaft. Each chamber has a means for hanging the wrinkled sheet and a means alternately or simultaneously supplying steam or hot air to the sheet. The wrinkled sheet is hung in the chamber exposed to the front. The chamber is then automatically rotated by 120 degrees. Desired steam or hot air is alternately or simultaneously applied to the sheet to remove wrinkles."

An English abstract for JP 59-28992 states: "Appts/ smooths out a crumpled skin sheet shaped like a tube having an opening at one end. The sheet is usable for covering a raw cushion mat mat of sponge, for e.g., to produce car seats. Before finishing the seat, the sheet must be smoothed out completely. A fan is placed in a hollow base (1) to produce compressed air. The base also contains a water vapour sprayer for producing a water vapour and a switch for connecting either the fan or sprayer to a smoothing frame having the same shape as the final shape of the skin sheet."

An English abstract for DE 31 19 560 states: "Apparatus for the smoothing of articles of clothing (10) by means of steam-containing hot-air streams, in which the articles of clothing (10) suspended on clothes hangers are conveyed continuously through a tunnel-shaped treatment chamber (11) by means of a conveyor device (14) and the steam-containing hot-air streams are guided vertically through the treatment chamber (11). In relation to the

length of the treatment chamber (11), the supply of steam takes place in a zonal manner in different forms, namely, in a first treatment zone (A) upstream of the treatment chamber (11), spraying freely into a hot-air flow located there, in a second treatment zone (B) within the treatment chamber (11), immediately upstream of the conveying path for the articles of clothing, spraying vertically in the direction of the articles of clothing (10). A third treatment zone (C) without additional steam spraying can be provided. Furthermore, some of the steam-containing hot-air streams are guided through extensions (12, 13) located at both ends of the treatment chamber (11), for the purpose of forming hot-air locks (40, 41) known per se."

An English translation of the foreign-language documents is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/7/05

By _____

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Date Submitted: March 7, 2005

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/517,129
Filing Date	12/06/2004
First Named Inventor	Henry Wurm
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	026032-4833

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	U.S. Patent Document Number	Kind Code[2] (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	A1	6,405,461	B1	Groel et al.	06-18-2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Office[3]	Number[4]	Kind Code[5] (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
	A2	DE	101 28 662	A1	Dreischmeier et al.	12-19-2002		
	A3	JP	2000303341	A	Sonoda et al.	10-31-2000	Abstract Only	
	A4	DE	197 38 355	A1	Steger	03-04-1999		
	A5	JP	11042400	A	Kurata et al.	02-16-1999	Abstract Only	
	A6	EP	0 573 726	A1	Magnussen et al.	12-15-1993		
	A7	DE	36 27 940	A1	Veit	03-10-1988		
	A8	JP	59-32492	A	Japan	02-21-1984		
	A9	JP	59-28992	A	Japan	02-15-1984		
	A10	DE	31 19 560	A1	Muessiger	12-09-1982		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[6]

001.1785965.1

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[1] Unique citation designation number. [2]See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. [3]Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4]For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5]Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. [6]Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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